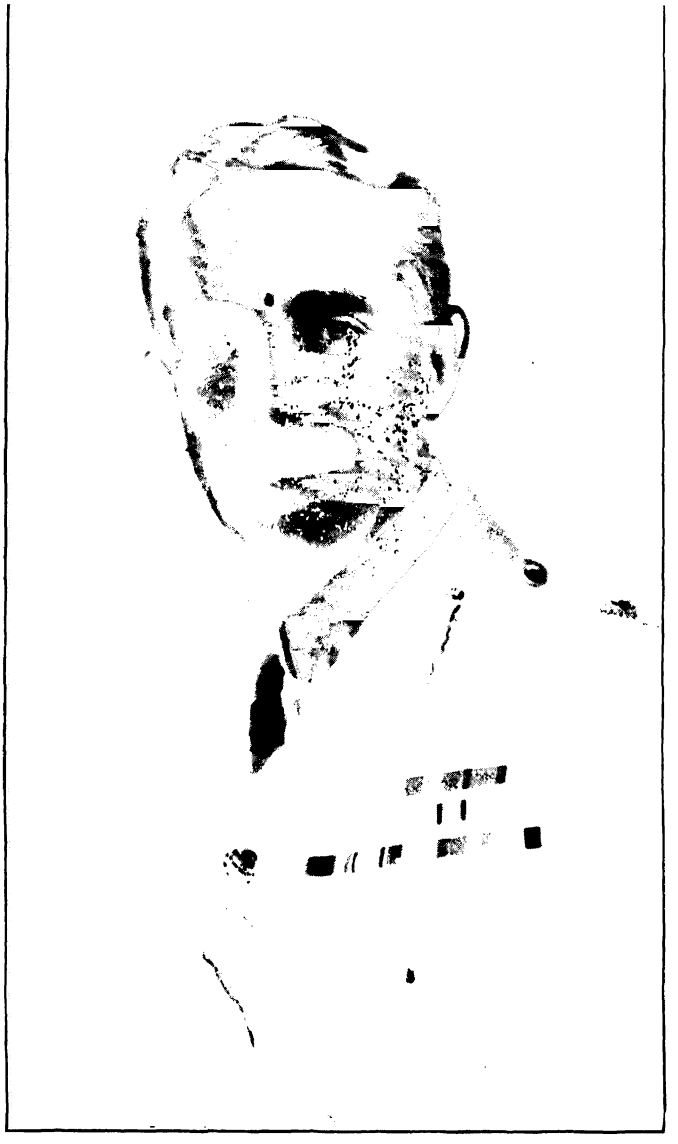

Major-General S. H. SHEPPARD, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

RACKETS IN INDIA

BY

COLONEL A. R. WINSLOE, C.M.G., D.S.O., LATE R.E.,
KNIGHT OF THE LEGION OF HONOUR

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TO

Major-General S. H. Sheppard, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

FOREWORD

By Major-General S. H. Sheppard, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

When I first went to the East in 1892, the most popular "bat and ball" game was undoubtedly Rackets. Lawn tennis, except at tournament time, was not taken very seriously; and Squash Rackets was almost unknown. Polo, Cricket and Rackets were the leading games in India then, and remained so for some time. I well remember what fun we used to have in the Northern India Championships, from 1901 onwards. Many of the best players happened to be quartered in the North in those years, and the enthusiasm was great. As we were mostly young, very keen, and extremely fit, no day's play seemed too long, and we thought little of playing in two or three finals on the last day. I once played in four—a real red-letter day. The game received a tremendous fillip in 1903, when Jamsetji—the greatest player India has ever produced—went Home and won the Championship of the World. I looked after him in England, and knew what difficulties he had to contend with. The climate of an English March is trying, to say the least of it, to one bred in Southern India. Until he played at Queen's, he

had never met anyone to whom he could not give half the game. And the pace of the English courts and balls was at first disconcerting. But he was plucky, fit, and active as a leopard, and soon found his true form ; being greatly helped by practice with the two greatest amateurs of all time, H. K. Foster and E. M. Baerlein, both of whom could make him "gallop." Jamsetji could give me—at my very best— 5 points in the Queen's Club court.

I think the average amateur form in India, from 1900 to the War, was very nearly up to Army Cup form at Home; at the same time, though, Rackets form in India is somewhat misleading, as the courts and balls are generally slow and easy, and many quite good performers in India have found themselves rather "out of it" in the very much faster conditions of play at Queen's or Prince's. I once heard an amusing explanation of the reason for the "out-size" courts one sometimes meets with in India, which was, that some of them had been built through the generosity of Indian potentates, each of whom wanted to "go one better" than his predecessor, and so had his court built a couple of feet bigger than the one before! After the War, Rackets in India declined in popularity. The expenses of the game had risen considerably ; leave, for tournaments, was perhaps not so easy to obtain ; and Lawn Tennis, Hockey, and Squash Rackets were proving formidable rivals. The game badly needed

pulling together; and Indian Rackets owes a deep debt of gratitude to Colonel Winsloe for the way in which he stepped into the breach. A sound practical engineer, and a good performer at the game, who has done well in many tournaments in India, he has devoted a considerable portion of his time since retirement in touring India and infusing new keenness into Rackets; whilst the new Indian Rackets Association owes its inception to his energy.

The technical chapters of his book are extremely valuable; in prewar days, it was most difficult to get data of this sort. I trust that the trouble he has taken may be appreciated, and that his efforts may result in a new lease of life for Rackets in India.

RACKETS IN INDIA

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION.

THIS is not a treatise for teaching the game as the young player gets all the information he requires in that admirable work "First steps to Rackets" recently published by Messrs. E. B. Noel and the Hon. C. N. Bruce. The pages that follow are written principally with the idea of showing the racket player where he may expect to get his game in India, and how it is possible to get it for a reasonable price. On my return to the country in 1920 I found that Rackets had suffered much as a result of high prices caused by the War. In many places the game was being played much less than formerly, particularly in military centres. I therefore set to work to remedy matters in Rawalpindi where I found myself. On leaving the Army I was persuaded by many friends to place on record for the benefit of players, and Honorary Secretaries in particular, my experience of the implements of the game and the construction and repair of courts dating back to the early nineties.

The chapters on the court and the implements of the game will possibly be found rather dry reading, but it is difficult to convert a suet pudding

of rackets technicalities into the soufflé fit for human consumption. Their utility, however, must be their excuse for they are chapters that really matter in that they show the player how the rackets bill can be kept down by attention to small details. This applies particularly to the English goods which are subject to a 30 per cent. customs duty. Honorary Secretaries, too, are continually having to attend to the repairs of the court without always having on the spot the expert advice they require, so Chapter 6 has been written with the express object of guiding them in their work. The simple specifications at the end of the book are the outcome of experience at Rawalpindi and elsewhere, and it should be possible to get such work done in any place provided some engineering supervision is available. But materials behave differently in different climates and it is, therefore, wise to experiment beforehand to see whether a specification is locally suitable, or whether some modification is required. Reinforced concrete, for instance, is not to be recommended at Aden where this style of construction is not a success. Also where saltpetre exists in walls and floors self coloured work will present difficulties.

For the details of courts and the appendices giving the results of tournaments I am indebted to the courtesy of many Secretaries of clubs and others interested in the game, and in the preparation

of the note on the electric lighting of courts I was given every facility by the Rackets authorities of Queen's Club and Eton College. Mr. W. Harrison, the electrician of Queen's Club gave much help too. In working out the specifications for the surfacing of walls and floors much valuable assistance was given me by Mr. W. P. Rendell, R.E. Finally General Sheppard kindly looked through the manuscript of the book and helped me with his advice. To all the above I extend my grateful thanks. The game of Rackets has undergone a strong revival in India since the War, and it still holds its own among players who favour pace. If properly run, the game is not nearly so expensive as it is supposed to be, and if this book helps the player to realise this it will have served the purpose for which it is produced.

THE AUTHOR.

RAWALPINDI, *January* 1930.

CHAPTER II.

History of Rackets in India.

RACKETS was played in India early in the 19th Century at much the same time when it flourished at Home. As British rule extended over the country the game followed it; and, as will be seen from the map of courts, it gradually spread to all parts. In the early days of the game there was a tendency to make courts larger than the standard size of 60 feet by 30 feet; and the writer well remembers, many years ago, asking an old officer of the Madras Army the reason for this and being told that it was done with the idea of getting more exercise! Though never the cheapest of games, Rackets did well up to the time of the War, but not everywhere, for the success or failure of any particular court depended so much on the practical knowledge of the game possessed by the Honorary Secretary concerned. This applied particularly to courts in military stations where the same continuity cannot be expected as in the case of a court in a large Presidency town, where men often spend several years at a stretch.

After the War a change came over the game. For some years the majority of players had left for

other spheres, and on their return, found prices much higher than before. This was more particularly the case in military stations, and the result at first was a general falling off in the number of players. But high cost was not the only reason for this; more games were being played in India, and Squash Rackets, as at Home, had gained much in popularity. Another factor, and by no means a negligible one, was the fact that as far as the Army is concerned the officer, both of the British and Indian service, is now more closely identified than formerly with the sports of his men. His leisure for other occupations is thus considerably curtailed. Also much more has to be spent on ball games in India now, and the writer can recall days of nearly 40 years ago when the income of the average sportsman enabled him to play polo and rackets in addition to going out pig-sticking and shooting. The man who wants to do that now must have a long purse, or economise somewhere. That is the crux. Despite all the difficulties enumerated hard ball Rackets flourishes in many places at the present time, and the keen player from Home can safely feel that he can still keep up his practice in the "Land of regrets." But he will find two disadvantages. One is that the courts vary very much more in pace than at Home, and the other is the effect of light in open courts. The eye, however, soon adjusts itself to meet both

of these difficulties as the courts are slower than at Home. Then, too, except at Bombay, where a heavy linen covered ball is seen, a medium standard ball is used. The heavy championship ball at Home is never seen. This slows down the game, but produces better rallies. Taken as a whole the game is, for many players, more a seasonal one than formerly.

Big open tournaments did not get going until the eighties, Bombay Gymkhana being the first to start in 1885. The challenge cup for open singles has been regularly played for except during the War, but the doubles event was not established until 1910. For this a challenge cup was presented in 1927 by Mr. V. Rosenthal, and the event is now an annual fixture. Recently a representative pair event, confined to public schools and military pairs (past and present), has been started, and the matches have led to much emulation.

At Rawalpindi, in 1901, Captain (now Major-General) S. H. Sheppard, R.E., presented a cup for regimental pairs, and this was followed in 1903 by a cup for the singles championship of Northern India presented by Mr. C. E. Bunbury of the Indian Civil Service. Later, in 1905, two cups for public school pairs were subscribed for, and lastly a competition for open doubles was started in 1921. All the above events have been regularly played for except during the War, and the challenge cups

have done much to bring good form to the front. General Sheppard's cup for regimental pairs is played for under conditions similar to those in force at Prince's Club.

Closely following the Rawalpindi fixture was the Northern Circars tournament started at Waltair in 1903, and continued regularly until 1924 when a severe cyclone blew down a part of the court. The game has, however, been got going again, and the competition has been re-started. Only doubles have been played for so far to decide the holders of the challenge cup, and players in the Northern Circars area only can compete.

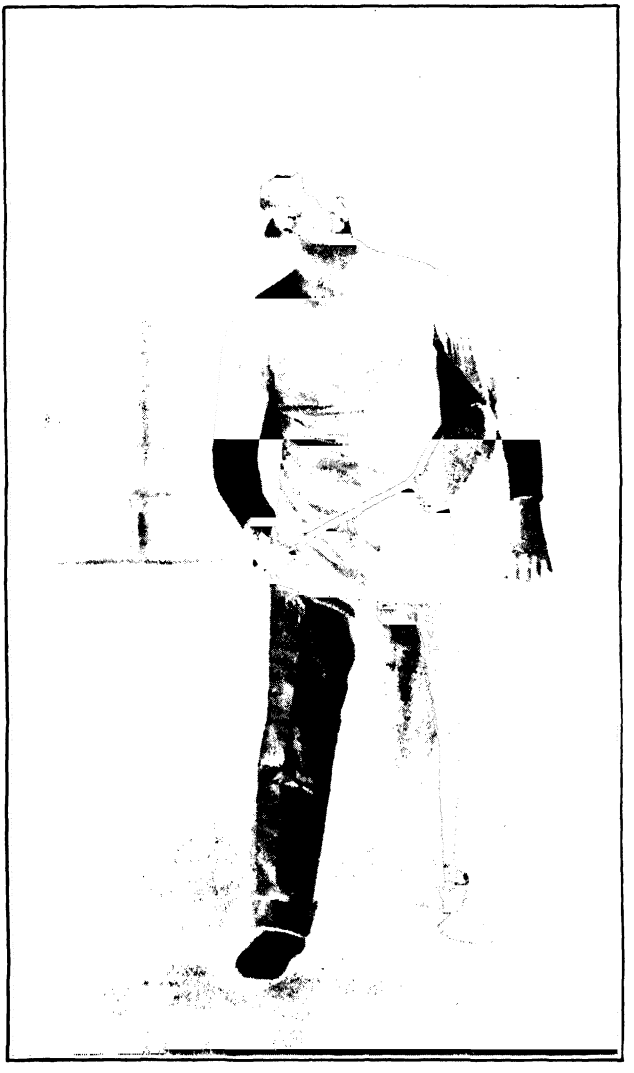
In 1904 a championship of Western India was started at Poona, and this was continued, except during the War, until 1921. Singles, doubles, and public schools events were competed for; but the tournament has been in abeyance for some time, though efforts were made to revive it. There is a challenge cup for the open doubles event. The Court is now used for Squash Rackets.

The last tournament on the list is the Central India championship started in 1927 at Jubbulpore, where the events competed for were the singles championship, doubles, and representative pairs on the same lines as at Bombay.

The covered standard court at Jubbulpore is one of the best in India, and the future prospects

of this tournament are very favourable.

Lastly we come to the professional tournaments. Perhaps the most noticeable thing about Rackets since the War is the improvement in professional form due to the encouragement given to it. Before the War professional tournaments had been few and far between, and there had been no really representative ones to decide the professional championship of India. Jamsetji, the famous Parsee player at the Bombay Gymkhana, was admitted on all sides to be "facile princeps" for he was World champion from 1903 to 1911 and had never been seriously stretched by any other player in India until the All-India meeting at Mysore in 1918. Jamsetji came of a Rackets playing family, and his father Merwanji, and Dhanjibhoy (sons of Cursetji, marker at the Byculla Club from 1870 onwards) were both fine players in their time. Merwanji was in 1885 considered good enough to send to England to compete for the World championship. He was, however, unfortunately prevented from doing so owing to eye trouble. Jamsetji was appointed racket marker at the Bombay Gymkhana in 1890, and in 1899 won the open professional tournament held at Bombay, for which 14 players competed. In the same year at Murree he defeated Abdul Majid who was then the best player in the North. After this he improved so fast that he was



JAMSETJI M. MARKER
World Champion, 1903—11.

sent Home in 1903 to compete for the World championship in London where he succeeded in beating Gilbert Browne of Prince's Club by 5 games to 1, being the only player from India who has ever gained this honour up to the present time. In 1911 he had to go to London to answer the challenge of Charles Williams, the Harrow professional. There was a difference of about 16 years in age, and Williams regained the championship for England by 5 games to 1.

After this there were no big professional meetings in India until 1918 when His Highness the Maharajah of Mysore organised a really representative tournament for markers from all over the country, and offered handsome prizes for competition. This was a great success, and was repeated with similar results in 1920 and 1924. By the rules of the competition the champion had to play through, and in 1918 Jamsetji was beaten before the final in which Padamji of Poona beat Maneckji of Bombay. Padamji in 1920 then lost to Abdul Majid of Peshawar, who in his turn was beaten by Syed Ali of Rawalpindi in 1924. Syed Ali again beat Abdul Majid in the open competition at Rawalpindi in 1929, but the meeting was not so representative as the Mysore one.

Of the professional players at the present time (1929) Syed Ali is the best, but, stylish and hard hitting player as he is, he has never been in any

way the equal of Jamsetji in his prime. The crack Parsee player with his fast, heavily cut, service—forehanded from both sides—quickly put an opponent on the defensive, whilst his quickness of foot and his resource in difficulties stamped him as the greatest player India has ever seen. No one has equalled him in his ability to knock the cover off the ball. In playing at Home for the first time he said it took him 6 months to get into championship form. This was due not only to the courts and balls being faster than in India but to the fact that he found the climate trying. Of the younger players Gorakhnath of Meerut shows the most promise.

Turning to the amateurs one sees in the lists many well known names such as General Sheppard, Colonel Wilson-Johnston, and Colonel Sloggett in the North, and in the South Colonel Greig, and more recently, R. J. O. Meyer. The latter is a stylish player of the best modern school, and possessed with great hitting power. Of all the players who have been in India General Sheppard is the only one who has had the honour of winning the amateur championship at Home; in fact he is the only Army player who has ever done so. He also won the Army championship three times at Prince's Club in 1903, 1906 and 1921. On the last occasion he won it as a Major-General at the age of 51. He is probably the finest player the

Army has produced in the last 30 years. Colonel Wilson-Johnston won the same event twice, and Colonel Sloggett once.

Altogether a goodly company is represented by the winners shown in the appendices at the end of the book, and it now lies with the coming generation to keep up the prestige of the game as it has been in the past. It is worth it in the case of Rackets which in its class, is the fastest of all ball games.

CHAPTER III.

THE LAWS OF RACKETS.

ALTHOUGH every court may have a copy of the latest Laws of Rackets it can only be studied *in situ* as a rule. It is thought, therefore, that a reprint in this book will be useful to players and Referees, particularly the latter. The 1923 Laws define the court generally and their provisions tend to make the game safer than formerly—for instance the dangerous practice of getting up the ball by hitting the back wall before the front wall is now forbidden by Rule 10. Rules 11 & 12 make the question of "lets" quite clear, and Rule 13 (c) now allows an appeal in the case of a second service. Rule 17 is important to remember in India where bad weather may often stop play in an open court. Another important thing to remember in matches is that a "good" service must be delivered at least once with a ball before it can be rejected, Rule 19 is very definite on this point. But for match play balls should be carefully picked beforehand.

The provisions regarding Referees are also important, and are clearly laid down. Rule 21 gives a Referee power to order the continuation or

stopping of play, and Rule 22 requires him to call foot faults or appoint a deputy to do so. It is also made clear in Rule 24 that no decision is given by him unless an appeal is made, except for the purpose of preventing an accident, or correcting the score. It is difficult, however, for a Referee to see everything, and in important matches there should be two Umpires as well. Rule 12 illustrates a case in point where it is difficult for one man to judge if his view happens to be obscured by one or more of the players. Rule 23 (c) is often overlooked. Here it is laid down that a player must leave his opponent free to play the ball to any part of the front wall, or to either side wall near the front wall.

In the four-handed game it is important to remember that by Rule 3 the order of serving can only be changed at the beginning of a game, and that by Rule 7 the order of receiving the service may only be changed the first time the side is hand-out in any game.

Rule 7 with reference to a server's position is, perhaps, one of the most important of all in that it controls the service. It is clearly laid down that at least one foot must be inside, and not touching the line surrounding the service box, for service from any position outside it is bound to lead to eccentricities in the service, which then becomes more difficult to take. Most players

agree that there is already quite enough power in the hands of a good server, and Rule 22 of the single game, therefore, requires to be strictly enforced by the Referee. The last para of Rule 9 is often transgressed.

It seems a pity that the Laws, excellent as they are, do not clearly lay down what the various positions of the lines of a 60 feet by 30 feet standard court are. If this were done it would be possible to work out by proportion the distance of the Short Line from the back wall, and the enhanced height of the Service Line in a court larger than the standard size. Both these lines have a vital effect on the service, and the correctness of their position is, therefore, a matter of first importance, particularly in India where many courts vary from the accepted standard. This point is touched on again in chapter 8. There is no doubt that an authoritative statement with regard to dimensions would be a great help out here, for a book containing the information may not be always available. An addition to the present Laws would simplify the whole matter.

THE LAW OF RACKETS

Rules of the Single Game.

1. The game is 15 up, that is, the player who first scores 15 aces wins the game, excepting that:

(*a*) On the score being called 13 all for the first time in any game, hand-out may before the next service has been delivered, set the game to 5; or to 3, *i.e.*, the player winning 5 (or 3) aces first wins the game;

(*b*) Similarly at 14 all hand-out may set the game to 3.

Note.—When hand-in requires one more ace to win the game the marker shall call his score "Game ball".

2. When the player fails to serve, or to return the ball, in accordance with the Rules of the game his opponent wins the stroke. A stroke won by hand-in scores an ace. A stroke won by hand-out makes him hand-in.

3. The ball after being served, whether the service is good or not, is in play until it is a double or until after being properly returned it has failed to hit the front wall above the board, or until it has touched a player, or until it has gone out of court.

4. The right to serve first in a rubber shall be decided by the spin of a racket

5. At the beginning of each game and of each hand the server may serve from either box, but after scoring an ace he shall then serve from the other, and so on alternately as long as he remains hand-in, or until the end of the game.

If the server serves from the wrong box there shall be no penalty and the service shall count as if served from the right box, except that hand-out may, if he does not attempt to take the service, demand that it be served from the other box.

6. The hand-in serves his hand out and loses the stroke

(*a*) If the ball is served on to or below the board, or out of court, or against part of the court before the front wall;

(*b*) If he fails to strike the ball, or strikes the ball more than once;

(*c*) If he serves two consecutive faults.

Note.—The ball is Out of Court when it touches the front, sides, or back of the court above the area prepared for play, or when it touches, or passes over any cross bars or other part of the roof of the court.

7. A service is a fault (except as provided by Rule 6)

(*a*) If a player fails to stand with one foot at least within, and not touching, the line surrounding the Service Box (called a Foot-fault);

(*b*) If a ball is served on to, or below, the Cut Line (called a Cut) ;

(*c*) If the ball served touches the floor on its first bounce on, or in front of, the Short Line (called a Short) ;

(*d*) If the ball served touches the floor, on its first bounce, in the wrong court, or on the Half Court Line, (the wrong court is the Left for a service from the Left-hand Box, and the Right from the Right-hand Box).

8. Hand-out may take a fault. If he attempts to do so, the service thereupon becomes good.

9. A player wins the stroke

(*a*) Under Rule 6 ;

(*b*) If his opponent fails to make a good return of the ball in play ;

(*c*) If the ball in play touches his opponent, or anything he wears or carries (other than his racket when in the act of striking) except

(1) as is otherwise provided by Rules 11, 12, and 14 ;

(2) in the case of a fault which hand-out does not attempt to take.

10. A return is good, if the striker returns the ball above the board without previously touching

the floor, or the back wall, or any part of the striker's body or clothing, and before it has become a Double, and if he does not hit the ball twice, or out of court.

11. If the ball, after being struck and before reaching the front wall, hits the striker's opponent or his racket, or anything he wears or carries, a Let on appeal shall be allowed, if the return would have been good. If the return would not have been good, the striker shall lose the stroke.

Note.—Play shall cease even if the ball goes up.

12. Notwithstanding anything contained in these Rules a Let MAY be allowed on appeal by either player, in the following circumstances :—

(*a*) If the player is prevented from obtaining a fair view of the ball, or from reaching the ball, or from striking at the ball ;

(*b*) If, owing to the position of the striker, his opponent is unable to avoid being touched by the ball ;

(*c*) If the ball in play touches any other ball in the court ;

(*d*) If the player refrains from hitting the ball owing to a reasonable fear of injuring his opponent ;

(*e*) If the player in the act of striking touches his opponent.

Note.—**No Let shall be allowed :**

(1) In respect of any stroke which a player attempts to make, unless, in making the stroke, he touches an opponent.

(2) Unless the striker could have made a good return.

13. An appeal may be made against any decision of the Marker, provided that, with regard to service, the following Rules shall apply :—

(*a*) A Let shall be allowed, if the hand-out is not ready and does not attempt to take the service ;

(*b*) No appeal shall be made with respect to foot faults ;

(*c*) No appeal shall be made against the Marker's call of "fault" on the first service.

(*d*) When the first service is a fault, then

(1) if the Marker calls "fault" to the second service, the server may appeal from that decision, and if the decision be reversed, a Let shall be allowed ;

(2) If the Marker calls "play" to the second service, the hand-out may appeal, and if this decision is reversed, the hand-in shall become hand-out.

14. If the player strikes at and misses a ball, he may make further attempts to return it, but

the following provisions shall apply :—

(*a*) Notwithstanding that the ball accidentally touches his opponent, the player shall lose the stroke, unless he could have made a good return ;

(*b*) If the ball touches his opponent, a Let may be allowed, if the player could have made a good return. In all other respect the Rules shall apply as if the player had not struck at the ball.

15. If in the course of play the Marker calls " not up " or " out", the rally shall cease from that moment. If the Marker's decision is reversed on appeal, a Let shall be allowed.

16. If a Let is allowed, the service or rally shall not count, and the server shall serve again from the same service box. A Let shall not annul a previous fault.

17. After the first service is delivered, play shall be continuous, so far as is practical, provided that at any time play may be suspended, owing to bad light, or other circumstances beyond the control of the players, for such period as the Referee shall decide.

In the event of play being suspended for the day, the match shall start afresh, unless both players agree to the contrary.

18. After the delivery of a service, no appeal shall be made for anything that occurred before that service was delivered.

19. Before a service is delivered, either player may demand a new ball. A good service must be delivered once at least before it can be rejected, but an appeal can be made by either player after a ball has been served once.

20. If a Referee is unable to decide an appeal, he may allow a Let.

21. The Referee has power to order

(*a*) A player, who has left the court, to play on ;

(*b*) A player to leave the court for any reason whatsoever, and may award the rubber to his opponent.

22. The Referee shall call foot faults, or must appoint a deputy.

23. Each player must get out of the way as much as possible. After making a stroke he must do all he can to

(*a*) Give his opponent a good view of the ball ;

(*b*) Avoid interfering with him in getting to, and striking at the ball ;

(*c*) Leave him, as far as the striker's position allows him, free to play the

ball to any part of the front wall, or to either side wall near the front wall.

When a player fails to do any of these things, the Referee may on appeal allow a Let, or a stroke to his opponent, if in his opinion such is a fair decision considering all the circumstances, and in accordance with what would probably have happened had there been no such interference.

24. There may be a Referee and two Umpires, who shall decide all appeals. If the Umpires are unanimous, the Referee shall give their decision; otherwise he shall give his own. In the absence of a Referee the Marker shall act as Referee.

The Referee or Umpire shall give no decision unless an appeal is made, except for the purpose of preventing an accident, or correcting a mistake in the score.

THE LAWS OF RACKETS.

Rules of the Four-Handed Game.

1. The Rules of the Single Game shall apply to the Double Game, and wherever the words server, hand-in, hand-out, striker, opponent, or player are used in the Rules of the Single Game, such words (wherever applicable) shall be taken to include his partner in the Double Game.

2. Only one of a pair shall serve in the first hand of a game.

3. The order of serving may be changed at the beginning of any game.

The player, however, who is serving when a game is won, must continue to serve in the following game, but need not serve first thereafter in that game.

4. If the player, who should serve second, serves first, hand-out may object, provided that he does so before an ace has been scored or an attempt has been made to take the first service. If no such objection is made, the server shall finish his hand and his partner shall then serve, but in subsequent hands the pair shall revert to their original order.

5. If in any hand a player serves again, after he has ceased to be hand-in, no aces so scored shall be counted, provided the mistake is discovered before either of the opponents has served.

6. If a player does not serve when he should do so and one of his opponents serves instead, the player loses his right of service, unless it is claimed before he, or his partner, has attempted to take a service, or before an ace has been scored.

7. On each side one player shall receive the service served to the right court and one to the left. This order of receiving the service may only be changed the first time the side is hand-out in any game.

8. Hand-in scores an ace, if the player in the right court strikes a service served to the left court, and *vice versa*.

9. While the service is being delivered, the player, who is to take the service, may stand where he pleases. His partner shall stand behind the server. The server's partner shall stand near the back wall, and in the court into which the service is not being delivered.

Note.—In these Rules the expression

BOARD means: The board across the lower part of the front wall.

COURT means: The whole building in which the game is played; the back of the court is divided by a Half Court Line into two halves, called the Right (or Fore-hand) the Left (or Back-hand) Court.

CUT LINE or SERVICE LINE means: The line drawn on the Court and front wall.

DOUBLE means: The ball after it has touched the floor a second time.

HALF COURT LINE means: The line on the floor, drawn from the Short Line to the Back Wall.

HAND-IN means: The player who serves.

HAND-OUT means: The player who receives the services.

To SERVE means: To start the ball in play by striking at it with a racket.

SERVICE Box means: The small squares on each side of the Court from which the service is delivered.

SHORT LINE means: The line drawn across the floor parallel to the front wall.

STRIKER means: The player whose turn it is to play after the ball in play has hit the front wall.

Drawn up by MAJOR SPENS, 1890. Revised by the Tennis, Rackets, and Fives Association, 1911. Revised by the Tennis and Rackets Association, 1923.

CHAPTER IV.

Racket Balls, and How to Look after Them.

OF the two types of ball, English and country, that are used in India the former will be considered first. Makers produce two kinds, one with a leather cover and the other with a linen cover, and unless instructions are given to the contrary, the ball supplied is "standard" as regards size and weight.

The standard leather covered ball.

The standard ball first appeared in India about 20 years ago, and to consider its evolution one must look for the cause. Few will deny that the costly item in Rackets is the bat, and players often attribute its short life to their inaccurate hitting, whereas more often than not, it is the ball that is at fault. The way to make a bat last well is not to overwork it, that is to say it should be used with a ball of uniform size and weight. Ball making is the "key" industry as far as rackets goods are concerned, and when you ask for a standard ball in India you get one approximately one inch in diameter and one ounce in weight, a gross thus weighing about 9 pounds.

This is the outcome of an arrangement made some 20 years ago by the Tennis and Rackets Association in London at a time when the heavy "Galloper" ball was in fashion. At that time makers had no rule to go by, and the balls became larger and heavier to suit the club concerned, with the result that bats broke much more freely than is now the case, too much power was given to the service, and the length of rallies was much reduced. In short the game was losing its characteristics and getting too expensive. The standard ball altered all this, and is now made in varying grades to suit different classes of play. The approximate weight per gross is given below:—

	lb.	oz.
Queen's Club ..	9	13
Public Schools	9 to 9	0 to 8
America	8	8
India	8 to 9	8 to 0

All the above are found suitable in their particular spheres. In India the lighter weight is much used, the heavier variety being used for the best match play. A heavier ball than this is not desirable for it would only lead to greater breakage of bats. As it is the climate does quite enough damage to the frames and the gut.

The advantages of the standard ball are readily appreciated by all who have had to put up with the country ball of irregular shapes and sizes so commonly met with in India, for in a well cemented and painted court it keeps its colour well and has good lasting power. Where walls are self coloured it keeps its colour better still. Makers can harden it to just the pitch that suits the court it is ordered for, but the result is always "standard". It must be remembered, however, that the standard ball is designed for the 60 feet by 30 feet court with its perfect floor and walls. Such conditions are not always met with out here, though out of some 70 courts three quarters are of standard size. But it is seldom that the floors and walls are as good as at Home. In courts of this size it does well, but in larger courts players must work out their own salvation. In such cases, especially where the walls are of stone without a plaster surface, the conditions are quite different, and the ball cannot be so fast as in a standard court. Here it resolves itself into a question of how heavy a ball you can afford. But, whatever weight is fixed on, it is in the interests of the game to see that it is kept up to the local "standard"—and no more or less—for it is the succession of "puddings" and "stones" that is so harmful to the bat, which is the expensive item in hard ball Rackets. Hence the inception of the standard

ball some 20 years ago. The player thereby knows exactly what he is up against, he plays with more confidence, and his game automatically costs him less.

The linen covered ball.

The linen covered ball is frequently met with in places where the climate is practically always damp and therefore liable to affect a leather cover. As the linen covering stands well, it lasts much longer than the leather covered one. The covering is, however, fastened to the core by an adhesive composition and the black colour of the walls comes off on it so quickly that the ball is generally thrown away on this account alone. If the walls are self coloured it gets dirty less quickly, but it takes more "cut" than the leather covered variety and is a bit more severe on bats on this account. It is, however, some 20 per cent. cheaper.

The re-covered English ball.

The way to get English balls really good and cheap is to send them Home to be re-covered, a process which applies to both types and gives a ball about 25 per cent. cheaper than the new English one. But still more important than cheapness is the fact the core keeps on improving after each re-covering, for it becomes more compact every time. In fact it is no more than the truth to say that the good English ball out here is made

by the player: it cannot be bought. At Home balls are re-covered by their makers, and many players coming out to India do not realise at first that ball-making is not a regular industry out here as at Home. In some places the used balls are given to the marker to convert into country balls, but this means that English balls costing some 40 per cent. more have to be bought to take their place. These do not give such a good game, and it is the neglect of the simple arrangement described that has done so much harm to hard ball Rackets in India. Happily, however, many clubs now realise it and have set to work to make their own stocks of balls from Home.

The country ball.

Country balls are made by the marker, and are the cheapest. There are two kinds, those of purely country manufacture, and those made from used English balls re-covered with country leather. The purely country variety has little resilience, but it is sufficiently slow to enable the beginner to hit without much difficulty. On the other hand, the re-covered English ball has at first a good deal of the resiliency of its English counterpart, but of course less pace. It also deteriorates very rapidly after each re-covering unless a good press is used. Its weak point is usually the variation in its weight and shape, and if a marker can be got to realise this and make it approximate to the

standard, much improvement can be effected, especially in the case of those with an English core. To correct variations in such balls it is advisable to send them Home occasionally to be re-made. A beginner would do well to start with the slowest, and then carry on with the faster one. When he has gained confidence he can take to the English ball.

How to take care of leather covered balls.

Rackets in India does not have a close season as at Home for it is played all the year round. It is for this reason that extra care has to be bestowed on the balls, particularly the English ones. In the winter months the leather covering lasts best, but it gets very dry in the hot months and splits quickly. It can get too dry in the cold weather as well. When the heavy rains set in conditions alter completely, and the leather gets too damp. Makers when sending balls out say they must be kept in a cool dry place, but the difficulty is to know how to do it. To start with it has to be realised that the cores are all wool, and this makes them retain heat for a considerable time. The dressing room of a racket court, where they are usually kept, is not the coolest of places on a hot day, and the covers of the balls deteriorate rapidly, for under such conditions the cores never have a chance of cooling down. Balls used in this state lose their shape very quickly. Even at Home,

after baking them in the course of manufacture, makers have to allow them 24 hours to cool down owing to the heat-retaining power of the wool in them. The results of experiments at Rawalpindi in the hottest weather have shown that the best thing to do with the balls is to keep them in a sieve of ¾ inch mesh placed on top of an earthenware vessel containing cold water. Short of using ice, there is no better way of doing this. But the vessel must be kept in a cool place. Even in the driest of hot weather this will prevent the balls from losing shape, and the leather covers from going too quickly. A simple precaution like this costs very little, and should be applied in cold weather too when the covers appear too dry. In both cases the lasting power of the balls is much increased. In the rainy season they must be kept free from damp, and the best way of doing this is to cover them with a blanket. If, before use, the covers are too damp, a few minutes in the sun or the application of some heat, will bring back their resiliency. When the air gets drier at the end of the rains the covers can be protected from splitting too quickly by moistening them with the hand just before use. This does not affect the resiliency of the balls. On the other hand, the water-cooling process would make them heavy and slow. Above all, English balls should not be kept longer out here than can be avoided, unless

they are carefully looked after. On the other hand the writer knows of cases of some, looked after as described, which have proved quite good after a year.

How to take care of linen-covered and country balls.

Linen-covered balls require the same care as leather-covered ones, but though the covers do not give the same amount of trouble, the adhesive composition which keeps them on leads to greater discoloration in the hot weather and rains. If properly looked after this is less noticeable. Except in moist climates they are not an economy. Country balls with leather covers require the same care as English ones.

Enough has been written to show the importance of looking after balls to ensure their keeping, as nearly as possible, in the condition they are found at Home. This is what has to be aimed at, and it is one of the ways of keeping down the Rackets bill. Economy in bats follows automatically if the balls are good, and this is best ensured by dealing direct with the makers at Home, for freshness is thereby guaranteed. Lastly, balls require to be protected from white ants which make short work of the woollen cores if they can get at them. They are most likely to come to harm when left loose in a box without camphor or naphthalin to protect them. In a linen bag they are safe. Any balls thus lost are replaced with difficulty for the cloth used in part of the cores is got from the old blue and red

uniforms which cannot now be got in anything like the same numbers. Unfortunately the makers at Home have found that the present day khaki is not an efficient substitute.

CHAPTER V.

Racket Bats, and their Preservation—The Metal Bat.

THE bat is undoubtedly the expensive item in the game. Any means by which its life can be lengthened are well worthy of study, and various methods of doing this will be explained. Both the English and country variety are used in India, and the former will be considered first.

English racket bats.

It is necessary that a consignment should be unpacked immediately on arrival so as to remove any damp that may be in the packing material. It must be remembered that gut is an animal product. If damp gets at it seriously it starts sweating and becomes quite useless. And an actual trial of the bat must be made to arrive at this fact, for a close inspection of the gut tells you nothing at all. This dampness may easily occur on a long journey out East with its variations of climate. Then again, the differences of climate in India have to be considered. In the dry hot weather the bats should be kept as cool as possible. In addition, there is an excellent gut reviver which can be used with advantage, one kind being applied when the bat is in use and the other when it is out of use. Olive oil does well too. Then, too, the frames

may be prevented from getting too dry by putting linseed oil on them, and this does not affect the weight seriously. But the varnish on the bats must be removed first. In the rainy season the gut must be protected from damp, and the best thing to do is to wrap the bats up in a blanket, otherwise the gut contracts and breaks of itself. This may be obviated by asking the makers not to string them too tightly. Another difficulty at this season is that the leather handles get too slippery for use and have to be replaced by rougher material, otherwise the bats are apt to fly about and get broken. A trouble common to all seasons is that a consignment rarely arrives without some bats being out of shape, and this is due to the changes of climate on the journey. The best and quickest way of correcting this defect is to put them in a large press which can be tightened by a wheel. The same effect can be obtained by using an ordinary press or by putting the bats under a weight, but both processes are very slow.

Gut for repairs is, as a rule, difficult to get, and it is as well to get some out with every consignment of bats. Black gut is particularly suitable for the East by reason of its strength and because it is more immune from insect and vermin attacks. If, therefore, white gut gives trouble in any particular locality, the fact might be notified to the makers. Black gut used to be frequently seen in English

bats out here a few years ago, but is now seldom seen in any but the country bat. It is not so resilient as white gut, but for ordinary play its use is recommended for the reasons given above.

Unless special care is exercised it is not advisable to keep bats so long as to allow deterioration to set in. If left in the dressing room of a racket court in the hot weather and the rains they naturally do not last as well as those kept with care in a cool house. But a player from Home has always been accustomed to leave his bats at the court and it is difficult to break him of the habit. They will, in the writer's experience, keep good for a year if properly looked after. To sum up, what has to be aimed at is to keep them, as far as possible, under the same conditions as at Home, and not to overwork them by using balls that are not standard. Beginners will be well advised to use a heavy bat at first. Makers should be asked not only to protect the gut with some oily paper but also to cover the whole package with strong damp-proof material. The question of cost has received the serious attention of the Indian Rackets Association, and a substantial reduction has recently been effected.

Country racket bats.

Two kinds of country bats are met with; those with an English frame strung with country gut, and those made of purely country material. Though not suitable for match play, these bats are

very strong and cheap and are therefore suitable for a beginner to learn with. To make them last longer the frames can be strengthened by binding in three or more places in the head, and this without affecting the balance seriously. Generally speaking, they will last longer if looked after like English bats.

Repairs to bats.

The repair of bats is a more expensive item than at Home. The note in Appendix E has, therefore, been compiled with the idea of assisting Honorary Secretaries, and players generally, in supervising the work of inexperienced markers and thereby keeping down the rackets bill.

The metal racket bat.

The high price of bats has been felt at Home as well as in India, and in 1924 Major H. M. Leaf invented a steel bat strung with steel gut. This, however, proved not only weak but also unreliable in direction when hitting. It cut the balls too. It was tried with ordinary gut in India, but this failed at once.

Major Leaf then produced a Duralmin bat strung with stranded wires, but these were found to cut the balls too. To produce solidity in the frame, and to make the use of ordinary gut feasible, the frame was reinforced with wood. This too failed, so the wood was omitted and the bat was again sent out to India for trial in 1926. Nothing, however,

could be done to make the gut hold owing to its tendency to flatten out on the thin metal frame and break at the bends. But the weight and balance was excellent in every way.

Another attempt to fix gut in the bat was made by the writer in 1929 at Rawalpindi, and this time with success. After many experiments boot eyelets were fixed and the gut held well in these during a month of real hard play. But towards the end of this time the frame and the lower part of the handle began to show signs of weakness and the bat finally broke at one of the four rivets connecting these parts. The test clearly showed that the frame and the lower five inches of the handle (where the two parts were clamped together) were not strong enough for the work required. Also the rivets in the frame worked loose. It is doubtful whether another bat will be designed for the experimental one is already heavier than the heaviest wooden bat. But this was not noticeable during play owing to the reduced wind pressure due to the thin section of the bat. In making a new one the possibilities of Electron might be considered for this material is much lighter and stronger than Duralmin. Possibly, too, the design used for metal golf clubs may be found suitable.

CHAPTER VI.

THE COURT, ITS CONSTRUCTION AND UPKEEP.

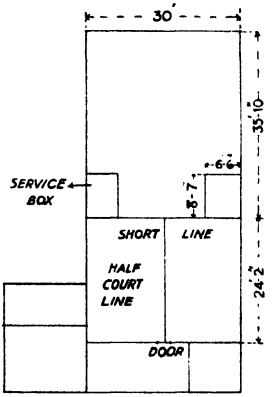
CONSTRUCTION OF THE COURT.

ANYONE wishing to build a covered court will find good examples at Calcutta, Jubbulpore, and Bombay, for Home designs are unsuitable on account of the differences in ventilation and lighting details which require special treatment in India. Both of these details are well dealt with in the Calcutta and Bombay courts. Good examples of open courts are to be found at Quetta, Kohat, and Rawalpindi, and all the above, with the exception of the Bombay court, are of standard size, 60 feet by 30 feet. The measurements of the Rawalpindi court are given opposite and correspond to the accepted standard at Home, except as regards the heights of walls, which may be taken as the standard for India.

Walls.

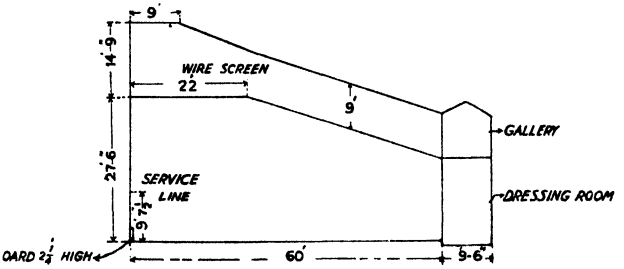
Brick is the best material to use in walls because of the frequency of joints which gives a better "key" for the plaster lining inside. But care should be taken to see that the bricks on the inside face are really hard, particularly up to a height of 15 feet. The lining of the walls should be of a self coloured material such as Indian Patent Stone described in Appendix C, or a black cement plaster, described in Appendix B 1, which has been used with success in the Rawalpindi court where the back

DETAILS OF RAWALPINDI RACKET COURT



NOTE:
DIMENSIONS OF SERVICE BOXES ARE CLEAR INSIDE MEASUREMENTS

PLAN
SCALE 16' = 1" INCH



LONGITUDINAL SECTION[1]
SCALE 16'=1"

1. SERVICE LINE 3 1/2 INCHES THICK OTHER LINES 2 1/2 INCHES THICK.
2. HEIGHT OF SERWICE LINE AND BOARD ARE MEASURED FROM THE TOP EDGE

wall is extremely fast. And there are no joints anywhere on its surface. Stone walls without plaster lining, unless they are very smooth, are hard on the balls and expensive to re-surface when they become pitted with play. It is, therefore, an economy in the long run to cover them with a self coloured lining, though this is not so easy to do as in the case of a brick face. But when all is done the back wall often proves the disappointing feature of the work, and this is due to its not being so perfect a monolith as the front or side walls on account of its lesser height. More attention should therefore be paid to its surface bricks and their lining, for the resiliency of this wall has an important effect on play. Painting it will inevitably make it slow.

Floors.

To get the best results floor should be laid with Indian Patent Stone which compares favourably with fast floors at Home and stands the extreme and varying climate of India better than any other material. Good results have also been obtained at Rawalpindi with the material described in Specification B 2.

Roofs.

The climate decides the class of roof suitable, but the important thing to see to is that the skykight is really waterproof, for this is not an easy condition to arrive at in India.

It is, too, only a matter of time when the electric lighting of courts in places like Calcutta and Bombay will be seriously considered. A note on how to set about this is therefore given in Appendix D.

Electric Lighting.

Upkeep of the Court.

Important as it is to have good bats and balls still more important is it to have the floor and walls of a court, especially an open one, free from cracks and roughness. This applies with particular force to the front wall which has to do the hardest work.

In open courts plaster on walls must get loose from time to time, and rapid repair often saves much subsequent damage. If a soft patch of bricks occurs it is best to replace the bricks, for anything in the way of an expanded metal reinforcement is difficult to "key in". Plaster made of 1 part cement to 2 parts clean sharp sand, and ¼ inch thick, is generally suitable, but the cement must be good and the plaster watered for at least 10 days. For a stone wall ½ inch plaster would probably be necessary. Before being applied, the old plaster should be stripped off, the joints well raked out, and the whole surface well wetted. The best time to do the work is during the rainy season when the temperature is down and the air moist. Where

Walls.

whole walls have to be replastered it will pay to make them self coloured, as already described. It has been said that cement deteriorates when colour is mixed with it, but the writer has not experienced this in racket court work. It is merely a question of seeing that the right proportions are used.

Floors.

If a floor has to be entirely relaid this should always be done with self coloured material, for a painted floor is a perpetual nuisance and expense. Moreover a freshly painted floor is always slow for a considerable time and then becomes slippery where the paint has worn off.

Painting.

In practice it will be found that most walls and floors are painted, and this leads to continual expense, especially in open courts. If paint is allowed to remain long on exposed walls the sun blisters it, and the surface gets covered with a myriad of sharp edges which cut the covers of the balls to pieces and makes play irregular. The writer well remembers seeing this state of affairs some years ago at the Rawalpindi court, where the work of renewing the paint reduced the expenditure of balls to one third of what it was previously. In covered courts there is nothing like the same trouble, but it is important to see that the old paint is all removed before any new paint is put on. Good

paint can always be got, but in case of necessity the specifications given in Appendix B 4 may be used. Finished paint should have no shine whatever.

The door.

The wooden door seen practically everywhere in open courts gives much trouble owing to the expansion and contraction due to changes of weather and it was for this reason the writer invented the reinforced concrete door described in Appendix B 5. The concrete surface gives practically the same resilience that the walls do, and this is a great advantage in a fast game. The whole door weighs about 3½ cwt, but can be made to run quite smoothly on an iron racer. In the North of India, with its extremes of temperature, slight adjustments to the door are sometime necessary, but the further South one goes the less trouble results. On the whole it has proved far more satisfactory than the wooden door. A design is given in the pocket at the end of the book.

The board.

It has been found by experience impossible to get any wood, however good, which will last any appreciable time without cracking and splitting in an open court. It is therefore best to use some strong cheap wood covered with canvas dyed red and fixed to the top edge of the board. This protects the wood from weather, saves the balls from damage,

and prevents them from bouncing too far into the court by acting as a buffer.

The screen.

Although the walls of an open court run up to a height of about 30 feet it may be necessary to have a light screen on one or more of the walls to keep off the afternoon sun. For supporting this it pays to have strong iron standards fastened to the tops of the walls and filled in between with wooden frame work covered with strong "Chitai" matting painted black. This is preferable to canvas, which is more expensive, and offers so much resistance to a high wind that it not only gets torn but tends to bend the uprights and break up the wooden framing. It may even damage the tops of the walls as well. "Chitai" on the other hand gives way in a high wind, and less material damage results. This screen is therefore the cheapest, and it is just as effective as a canvas one. It is a good thing to continue it at the same height right down to the back of the court with a screen of rabbit netting to prevent balls bouncing out of the court and getting lost. It is quite cheap to put up, costs little to maintain, and is an economy in the long run for, as already explained, the replacement of lost balls by new ones is not the simple matter that it was in pre-war days.

Although a court may be self coloured throughout, still there is the dust of the country to be

reckoned with. The walls require a regular "spring cleaning" preferably just before the annual tournament comes off. This applies more particularly to closed courts where the skylight requires particular attention, otherwise the light is bound to be defective after a time.

CHAPTER VII.

NOTES ON TOURNAMENTS AND INDIAN MARKERS.

A PREVIOUS chapter has shown how competition stimulates play, and annual tournaments should always be held when possible. As they are played in accordance with the latest Laws of Rackets a copy of these should be accessible for reference at the racket court for the benefit of the visiting player, whose knowledge in India often gets rusty, owing to there being sometimes no court in or near his station.

Tournaments.

Then there is the vexed question of whether the holder of a title should play through or stand out for the challenge round. At Bombay the custom has been for the holder to play through, but at Rawalpindi the Queen's Club system held good until 1927. Now the matter has been definitely decided by the Tennis and Rackets Association in London, and not only will the holder, or holders, play through, but the draw will be seeded as well by a committee appointed for the purpose. This breaks up a system that has lasted 40 years, but the decision arrived at is a sound one. Clubs out here would do well to follow the Home practice as it certainly leads to better finals.

System of drawing ties.

Many a player can truly say that he has seldom been present at a drawing of ties without discussion having arisen as to how it should be done. It is thought, therefore, that it will help if a short description is given of a simple system that has been in force for many years. If there are 9 players (or pairs) deduct 9 from 16 (higher power of 2), and you get the number of byes (7) in the first round; similarly with 13 players you get 3 byes, and with 7 players 1 bye. Byes are divided between the two ends of the draw, *e.g.*, with 7 byes, 3 will be at one end and 4 at the other, and so on.

EXAMPLE OF A DRAW OF 9 ENTRIES.

1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round	Final.
1. Bye			
2. Bye			
3. Bye			
4.			
5.			
6. Bye			
7. Bye			
8. Bye			
9. Bye			

Record board.

Whenever an annual competition is held it is a good thing to keep at the court boards recording the names of winners of single and double events. Such boards may be seen at Bombay, Poona, Jubbulpore, and Rawalpindi, and permanent records such as these not only stimulate emulation and interest but are of particular value in a country where players are so much on the move. The boards at Rawalpindi are ornate affairs designed by an architect, and are made of light "Venesta" wood set in teak wood frames. Quite a large board made in this way can be easily taken down and put back in its place.

The Indian marker.

Nowhere will the game flourish without a good marker, and a good salary should be paid to an efficient man. Salaries of course vary with localities, but a marker who takes an interest in teaching beginners and looking after the bats and balls is worth special consideration. Again what good player does not appreciate the services of a good marker when he wants to get into tournament form? Although many Indian professionals are fine players teaching is not, as a rule, their strong point, owing to their lack of knowledge of English. Parsees make the best teachers, and Jamsetji stands alone in this respect; for, owing to his long experience, he is able to turn a keen beginner

into a good player in a remarkably short time. Madrasis with their knowledge of English ought to make good teachers too.

With the increased cost of games all clubs cannot afford to keep a marker for rackets only unless there is a sufficiency of players, and this has led to a decrease of play in some places. There is no doubt, therefore, that the pool system in vogue in good clubs at Home must come into force in such cases, and the marker who plays lawn tennis must be able to turn his hand to Rackets when required, and vice versa. Where Squash Rackets is played as well there would be no difficulty. The Indian marker is a conservative individual and likes to specialise in one game, but times have changed and he must change too if he wishes to be always sure of a good salary in the future. In looking after bats and balls some men are better than others, but all can be taught by an Honorary Secretary who has the necessary knowledge. It is the English bats and balls that require extra care, and this is where he really comes in. His eye must be everywhere, for it is he who has to take the long view. He must, therefore, organise a business-like system to produce the best results.

CHAPTER VIII.

Racket Courts in India and some Notes on them.

THE attached list, which gives details of some 70 courts, does not pretend to be exhaustive, but it will be useful to the keen player in the course of his wanderings. The map showing where the courts are will be a further help. From this it will be seen that the game has been played in all parts except Assam. Racket courts in India are practically always solid concerns, and stand the ravages of time surprisingly well considering that most of them are uncovered. Some date back to early in the 19th century, the one at Madras having been built in 1831, whilst the court at Saugor dates back to 1821. There are doubtless many others of similar age dotted about the Madras Presidency. In practically all cases paint is used to colour the interior of the walls, and where this is not renewed at suitable intervals the effect produced is to make the casual observer think that the court is past repair. The writer well remembers going back to a station after 30 years absence and being told that the court would require 1,000 rupees spent on it before it would be fit for play, whereas a sum of 150 rupees was sufficient to put matters right. The court

was an open one in which the paint had deteriorated so much in a few years that a view from the gallery gave a general impression of ruin, but a closer inspection down below showed there was not much wrong.

Owing to the increased popularity of Squash Rackets, coupled with the increased cost of Rackets since the War, there has been a regrettable tendency to convert good racket courts into squash courts. In some places as many as three have been made out of a 60 feet by 30 feet racket court with the result that each squash court is 2 feet short of the standard size in each direction, thus making standard play impossible. In some stations Rackets has been killed by the only racket court in the place having been so dealt with. Without pulling down two walls and reducing the height of the rest it is not possible to make 3 standard squash courts, 32 feet by 21 feet, out of a standard racket court. But this is costly work, so before starting, it is worth considering whether the saving that may be made is an economy in the long run. Squash Rackets is being played so much out here that standard courts should be provided, otherwise the pace of courts will vary greatly in different places. This is taking the long view, and the best view, in the interests of both games.

As a result of such conversion work it is possible that the list that follows is not strictly correct, but

it will give the reader a fair idea of the state of affairs in 1930 after more than a century of play. The details in the list will also give some indication as to whether a court is likely to be fast or slow. Owing to large reductions of garrisons in the South a great number of courts in the list are not in use at the present time, but the fact of their being so shown may lead to some of them being reopened at some time or another. The writer recently had a case of the utility of such information in that he was able to put some keen players on to a court in a station where they had made previous enquiries with negative results. On another occasion the writer was on a visit to a very large military centre where he met several racket players who were unaware that a first class racket court existed within a short distance of the main Gymkhana building. This shows how easily even a good court may become forgotten.

Generally speaking, the most noticeable thing about courts in India is the difference in their pace, due in many instances to their deviation from the standard size and the dimensions depending on it. But, more often than not, this is due to climatic influences. The writer has played in courts in all parts of the country, and has been much struck by the changes due to these causes. They are more noticeable in open than in closed courts.

Of the courts mentioned in the list the best

known are those at Bombay, Calcutta, Rawalpindi, and Jubbulpore. But with the exception of Calcutta, Mysore, and Bombay, notably the two former, there are no closed courts to compare with the fast courts at Home. Besides those shown in the list courts are known to exist at Muzaffarpur, Luckeeserai, Bhagalpur, Hazaribagh, Cuttack and Gwalior. The last named is a covered court. Of the open courts the one at Rawalpindi is by far the fastest.

In England too, high as the standard of courts is, there are differences of pace due to size and other causes. The courts at Queen's and Prince's, and Manchester, are admittedly fast, but Public School courts vary greatly, some being fast (Clifton), some slow (Eton), and some too big (Harrow). The last named is the same size as the Bombay court (64 feet by 32 feet).

Name of place.	Size of Court in feet.		Open or Covered.	Ownership.	Material of walls and how lined inside.	REMARKS.
			PUNJAB.			
Peshawar	62¼	30½	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	
Kohat	61	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	
Campbellpore ..	61	30¼	Open ..	Government	Brick with cement plaster.	
Rawalpindi	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	Ferro concrete door.
Sialkot	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	
Dalhousie	60	30	Covered ..	Municipality.	Stone with lime plaster ..	
Bakloh	60	30	Covered ..	Officers' Mess	Stone with lime plaster ..	Door in side wall.
Lahore	60	30	Open ..	Punjab Club.	Brick with cement plaster.	
Amritsar	69¾	35	Open ..	Private ..	Brick with cement plaster.	
Ferozepore	60	30	Open ..	Government	Brick with cement plaster.	

Name of place.	Size of Court in feet.		Open or Covered.	Ownership.	Material of walls and how lined inside.	REMARKS.
			PUNJAB—*contd.*			
Jullundur	60	30	Open ..	Government	Brick with lime plaster ..	
Multan	61½	30½	Open ..	Private ..	Brick with cement plaster.	2 courts.
Ambala	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	
Patiala	60	30	Open ..	Maharajah of Patiala.	Brick with lime plaster.	2 courts.
Delhi	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	
			2. BALUCHISTAN.			
Quetta..	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	

3. United Provinces.

Roorkee	60	30	Open ..	Thomason College.	Brick with cement plaster.	
Ranikhet	60	30	Covered ..	Government .	Stone with lime plaster.	
Meerut	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	
Bareilly	59	30¼	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with lime plaster.	
Muttra	60	33	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with lime plaster.	
Fatehgarh	64	34	Open ..	Government .	Brick with lime plaster.	
Cawnpore	60	30	Covered ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement and lime plaster.	Floor of patent stone.
Lucknow (U.S. Club)..	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with cement plaster.	Front wall of stone.
Fyzabad	66¼	34	Open ..	Cantonment Authority.	Brick with lime plaster.	Front wall and floor of stone.
Allahabad	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with lime plaster ..	2 courts. Front and back walls of stone.
Benares	68½	30	Open ..	Government .	Brick with lime plaster ..	Stone floor.

Name of place.	Size of Court in feet.	Open or Covered.	Ownership.	Material of walls and how lined inside.	REMARKS.
4. BIHAR AND BENGAL.					
Chapra	59¾ 30	Open ..	Club ..	Brick with lime plaster.	
Arrah	60 30	Open ..	Club ..	Brick with cement plaster.	
Dinapore ..	60 30 70 30 70 30	Open Covered Open	Government.	Brick with cement plaster.	
Bankipore	60 30	Open ..	Club ..	Brick with lime plaster.	
Gaya	60 30	Open ..	Club ..	Brick with lime plaster ..	
Monghyr	60 30	Open ..	Club ..	Brick with cement plaster .	
Calcutta	60 30	Covered ..	Club.. ..	Brick with Indian patent stone.	2 courts.

5. Rajputana and Central India.

Ajmere	60	30	Open ..	Club ..	Brick and stone with lime plaster.	
Nasirabad	60	30	Open ..	Club ..	Stone with lime plaster ..	
Jodhpur	60½	30¼	Open ..	Maharajah of Jodhpur.	Stone with lime plaster.	
Mt. Abu	60	30	Covered ..	Club ..	Stone with cement plaster.	
Neemuch	63½	32	Open ..	Government	Stone with lime plaster ..	Front wall of stone.
Saugor	60	30	Covered ..	Government	Brick with cement plaster	Built in 1821.
Jubbulpore	60	30	Covered ..	Club ..	Stone with cement plaster	Ferro concrete door.
Indore	62	31	Open ..	Club ..	Brick with cement plaster	Front wall and floor of stone.
Mhow	65½	35	Open ..	Government	Brick with cement plaster	Front wall of stone. There is another court in old Cavalry lines.
Kamptee	60	30	Open ..	Club ..	Brick with cement plaster	In very bad order.

Name of place.	Size of Court in feet.		Open or Covered.	Ownership.	Material of walls and how lined inside.	REMARKS.
6. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.						
Ahmedabad	68	30	Open ..	Government.	Brick with lime plaster.	
Baroda	80	40	Open ..	Club.. ..	Brick with lime plaster.	
Ahmednagar	64	32	Open ..	Government.	Stone with cement plaster.	
Bombay	64	32	Covered ..	Bombay Gymkhana.	Stone.	
7. HYDERABAD.						
Aurungabad	60	30	Open ..	Private ..	Stone with lime plaster.	
Hyderabad	60	30	Open ..	Government.	Brick with cement plaster.	In Residency grounds.
Secunderabad (Bolarum).	60	31	Open ..	Government.	Stone and brick with cement plaster.	Front and back walls of stone.

8. Mysore.

Bangalore	60	30	Covered ..	Maharajah of Mysore.	Brick with lime plaster ..	Front and back walls of stone.
Mysore	60	30	Covered ..	Maharajah of Mysore.	Brick with Indian patent stone.	Front and back walls of stone. Floor of Indian patent stone.

9. Madras Presidency.

Waltair	62	31	Open ..	Club ..	Stone with cement plaster..	
Cocanada	70	35	Open ..	Club.. ..	Stone and brick with cement plaster.	Front wall of stone.
Bellary	71	42	Open ..	Government .	Stone with cement plaster.	
Madras	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Stone	Built in 1831.

Name of place.	Size of Court in feet.		Open or Covered.	Ownership.	Material of walls and how lined inside.	REMARKS.
9. MADRAS PRESIDENCY—*contd.*						
St. Thomas' Mount ..	60½	30½	Open ..	Government.	Brick with cement plaster.	Front and back walls and floor of stone.
Calicut	60	30	Open ..	Club.. ..	Stone with cement plaster .	
Coimbatore	60	30	Open	Club.. ..	Stone with cement plaster .	
10. BURMA.						
Rangoon	64	32	Covered ..	Rangoon Gymkhana.	Brick with cement plaster .	

CHAPTER IX.

The Indian Rackets Association.

WHILE collecting data about racket courts all over the country the writer found that one well known court had been closed for some years, and that good courts in about half a dozen stations had been converted into squash courts. In some places the game was dead, in others it was only played spasmodically. Enquiries everywhere elicited the same reply that the game had become too expensive since the War; and this was found to be literally true. In some stations as much as 12 annas was being charged for an English ball and occasionally 4 annas for a country ball, *i.e.*, more than the cost of an English ball. And this at a time when the customs duties were a quarter of what they are now. In such places prices for bats ruled high too, and it was therefore felt that the time had come for the formation of an Association to watch the interests of the game, and act as an advisory body for the clubs needing information regarding racket bats and balls, and the repair of courts. It was found, too, that though Rackets flourished in certain well known centres it was run on what may be described as a water-tight compartment system, that is to say, that clubs as a rule were quite content if the game went well in

their particular locality and took but a passing interest in what was going on elsewhere. But this is a short-sighted policy. The more the game develops throughout the country the more players will get into practice, and they, as they move to places where there is play, may help to improve the form there. Thus the standard of form will be automatically raised, and it was with the object of fostering this that the Indian Rackets Association was formed in 1926 at Rawalpindi.

Rackets has never been an easy game to run in India, and a business instinct on the part of the Honorary Secretary is more necessary than ever with the present high prices. But where there is a lack of continuity—a fairly general condition except in large centres like Calcutta or Bombay—the Association will be able to prove its usefulness. It is prepared to advise on all matters connected with the implements for the game, and the repair of the court, both of which subjects have been dealt with at length in previous chapters. From these it will be gathered that it is the attention to small matters that keeps down the Rackets bill. Any club that wishes to get the game going again, or to get any other information, can now easily get the necessary advice. At present the Association deals only with Rackets matters and has its hands full with these, and though some queries regarding

Squash Rackets have been dealt with, there is as yet insufficient information at headquarters to deal with a question that is becoming bigger every year in India as at Home. In time, however, it is hoped to help this game too, but special arrangements would have to be made as owing to the large number of squash courts the question would become a big one.

India is represented on the Committee of the Tennis and Rackets Association at Home, and any information received about Rackets or Squash Rackets is circulated by the Indian Rackets Association to its members. Briefly speaking its objects are—(1) to cheapen Rackets in every possible way; (2) to encourage professional form by organising tournaments from time to time; (3) to organise All-India Tournaments from time to time; (4) to help clubs in opening up old courts; (5) to use influence in dissuading clubs from converting racket courts into squash courts, and thus killing the parent game; (6) to advise clubs regarding the upkeep of courts. In all these ways the Association hopes to do good work. Its organisation is similar to that of the Tennis and Rackets Association—though on a smaller scale—and its affairs are in the hands of a President and a Vice-President assisted by an Executive Committee, which is the Rackets Committee of the Rawalpindi Club. It has, in addition, as *ex-officio*

members, players who are holders of any Singles championship title. There are also players representing various parts of the country, and it is hoped in time to get representatives everywhere. The Association has its headquarters at Rawalpindi, and its membership includes 11 clubs dotted all over the country, as the map in the pocket of this book shows. This influence will no doubt spread in the future.

In conclusion it may be asked what the Association has done in the past four years to justify its existence. A reference to its records will show. Many enquiries have been received at Rawalpindi from clubs wanting to get their courts in order, and advice, on the subject of rackets bats and balls, has been frequently asked for. All these queries have been replied to with satisfactory results. Most satisfactory of all, perhaps, is the fact that a substantial reduction has been made in the price of bats and balls, and affiliated clubs benefit by the special terms made with firms at Home. Efforts have also been made to get an All-India Amateur championship started; but the main difficulty so far has been to fix on a place sufficiently central to attract players from all parts. Jubbulpore with its excellent covered court is the best situated, but its distance from the best centres of play is sufficiently great to keep away players not possessed of a long

purse. And many would come into this category. Another solution would be to hold the meeting in certain well known centres in turn, but such meetings would have the disadvantage of never being really representative. But a start is required to rouse interest in the matter, and a meeting at Bombay would probably produce the best results, for it is the seaport most used for going Home and a keen player could always arrange his leave to fit in with the tournament dates. It is hoped that some such solution will be arrived at in time, for much good would be done by periodical meetings of this sort. The cheapening of the game has already led to more play, and tournaments are on the increase. Jubbulpore has now started the Central India Championship whilst the Northern Circars Championship at Waltair has been revived. To sum up, it may be truly said that the Association has helped to popularize the game. It has stood the acid test.

APPENDIX A.

1. PROFESSIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP OF INDIA.

From 1899 to 1917 the title was held by Jamsetji (Bombay), and after that the championship meeting was held at Mysore with the following results.

1918. Padamji (Poona) beat Maneckji (Bombay) by 3 games to 1.

1920. Abdul Majid (Peshawar) beat Padamji (Poona) by 3 games to 1.

1924. Syed Ali (Rawalpindi) beat Abdul Majid (Peshawar) by 3 games to 0.

1929. Syed Ali (Rawalpindi) beat Abdul Majid (Peshawar) by 3 games to 2.

This last match was played at Rawalpindi.

2. THE BOMBAY CHAMPIONSHIP.

SINGLES.

1885. Lt. B. B. Russell, R. E.

1886. H. G. Gell.

1887. Lt. G. H. Hancock, Bombay Staff Corps.

1888. H. G. Gell

1889. F. T. Rickards.

1890. L. Rivett-Carnac.

1891. Lt. G. H. Hancock, Bombay Staff Corps.

1892. Captain S. C. U. Smith, R.A.

1893. Captain S. C. U.Smith, R.A.

1894. Lt. G. H. Hancock, Bombay Staff Corps.

1895. Captain S. C. U. Smith, R.A.

1896. Lt. J. G. Greig, Bombay Staff Corps.

1897. Lt. E. C. Bradford, Royal Irish Rifles.

1898. Lt. J. G. Greig, Bombay Staff Corps.

1899. Lt. J. G. Greig, Bombay Staff Corps.

1900. Major S. Menzies, Royal Fusiliers.

1901. Captain M. D. Wood, West Yorkshire Regiment.

1902. Captain J. G. Greig, Bombay Staff Corps.

1903. Lt. E. S. Sandys, R.E.

1904. Lt. A. H. C. Kearsey, 10th Hussars.

1905. Captain J. G. Greig, Indian Army.

1906. Captain J. G. Greig, Indian Army.

1907. Major C. Wigram, 18th Lancers.

1908. Captain J. G. Greig, Indian Army.

1909. Captain J. G. Greig, Indian Army.

1910. Captain J. G. Greig, Indian Army.

1911. Major J. G. Greig, Indian Army.

1912. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett, The Rifle Brigade.

1913. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett, The Rifle Brigade.

1914. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett, The Rifle Brigade.

1921. P. M. D. Sanderson.

1922. Captain C. P. Hancock, Political Department.

1923. P. M. D. Sanderson.

1924. P. M. D. Sanderson.

1925. T. E. Grant.

1926. J. G. Milne.

1927. R. J. O. Meyer.

1928. J. G. Milne.

1929. J. G. Milne.

1930. J. G. Milne.

Doubles.

1910. Captain H. C. Richmond & P. M. D. Sanderson.

1912. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett & Lt. F. W. Gull.

1913. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett & Lt. F. W. Gull.

1914. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett & Lt. F. W. Gull.

1923. P. M. D. Sanderson & J. R. Farquharson.

1924. T. E. Grant & N. B. Macbeth.

1925. P. M. D. Sanderson & Colonel A. R. Winsloe.

1926. J. G. Milne & H. F. Milne.

1927. R. J. O. Meyer & R. Richardson-Gardner.

1928. A. M. D. Pitt & Colonel A. R. Winsloe.

1929. J. G. Milne & H. F. Milne.

1930. N. B. Macbeth & P. M. D. Sanderson.

Representative Pairs.

1925	J. G. Milne H. F. Milne	Tonbridge.
1926	J. G. Milne H. F. Milne	Tonbridge.

1927	H. F. Milne J. G. Milne	Tonbridge.
1928	J. G. Milne H. F. Milne	Tonbridge.
1929	J. G. Milne H. F. Milne	Tonbridge.
1930	H. F. Milne. J. G. Milne.	Tonbridge.

3. THE NORTHERN INDIA CHAMPIONSHIP.

SINGLES.

1903. Lt. W. E. Wilson-Johnston, 36th Sikhs.

1904 Lt. W. E. Wilson-Johnston, 36th Sikhs.

1905 Lt. W. E. Wilson-Johnston, 36th Sikhs.

1906. Lt. J. B. Lynch, Royal Irish Fusiliers.

1907. Captain W. E. Wilson-Johnston, 36th Sikhs.

1908. Major S. H. Sheppard, R.E.

1909. Lt. W. G. Harington, 5th Gurkha Rifles.

1911. Major S. H. Sheppard, R.E.

1912. Major S. H. Sheppard, R.E.

1913. Captain H. V. Bastow, Yorkshire Regiment.

1914. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett, The Rifle Brigade.

1915. Captain H. V. Bastow, Yorkshire Regiment.

1916. Captain H. V. Bastow, Yorkshire Regiment.

1917. Lt. Colonel F. G. Smallwood, R.A.

1920. Lt. J. G. Newton, The Rifle Brigade.

1921. Major C. D. Noyes, 2nd Rajputs.

1922. Colonel A. R. Winsloe, R.E.

1923. Colonel A. R. Winsloe, R.E.

1924. Lt. E. St. J. Birnie, 12th Cavalry, F.F.

1925. Lt. J. G. Newton, The Rifle Brigade

1926. 2nd Lt. R. P. Harding, 5th/6th Dragoons.

1927. Lt. J. G. Newton, The Rifle Brigade.

1928. Lt. J. G. Newton, The Rifle Brigade,

1929. Major H. G. Moore-Gwyn, The Rifle Brigade.

DOUBLES.

1921. H. P. Tollinton, I. C. S.
Major C. D. Noyes, 2nd Rajputs.

1922. Lt. Colonel E. B. Peacock, I.A.
Captain J. P. Dening, 11th P.A.V.O. Cavalry.

1923. Lt. Colonel E. B. Peacock, I.A.
Colonel A. R. Winsloe, R.E.

1924. Captain N. E. Marriott, 12th Cavalry, F.F.
Lt. E. St. J. Birnie, 12th Cavalry, F.F.

1925. Lt. C. J. Herbert-Stepney, 60th Rifles.
Lt. O. N. D. Sismey, 60th Rifles.

1926. Captain N. E. Marriott, 12th Cavalry, F.F.
Lt. J. G. Newton, The Rifle Brigade.

1927. Lt. O. N. D. Sismey, 60th Rifles.
Lt. J. G. Newton, The Rifle Brigade.

1928. Lt. J. G. Newton, The Rifle Brigade.
Captain E. St. J. Birnie, 12th Cavalry, F.F.

1929. Major H. G. Moore-Gwyn, The Rifle Brigade.
Lt. J. G. Newton, The Rifle Brigade.

REGIMENTAL PAIRS.

1901.	35th Sikhs.	Captain G. R. Cassels. Captain S. K. B. Rice.
1902.	N. W. F. Province, Commission.	C. E. Bunbury. Captain H. B. St. John.
1903.	36th Sikhs.	Captain de C. Ireland. Lt. W. E. Wilson-Johnston.
1904.	R. E.	Captain C. Ainslie. Captain H. O. Lathbury.
1905.	36th Sikhs.	Major H. A. Moore. Lt. W. E. Wilson-Johnston.
1906.	Northern Command Staff.	Major E. M. Lachlan. Major C. Ainslie.
1908.	36th Sikhs.	Major H. A. Moore. Captain W. E. Wilson-Johnston.

1909.	5th Gurkha Rifles, F. F.	Captain F. Skipwith. Lt. W. G. Harington.
1911.	Staff.	Major S. H. Sheppard. Major d'A.S. Brownlow, I. A.
1912.	The Rifle Brigade.	Captain A. J. H. Sloggett. Lt. F. W. Gull.
1913.	The Rifle Brigade.	Captain A. J. H. Sloggett. Lt. F. W. Gull.
1914.	The Rifle Brigade.	Captain A. J. H. Sloggett. Lt. F. W. Gull.
1915.	Royal Artillery.	Colonel A. P. Douglas. Captain N. I. E. Fiennes.
1916.	21st (E. of I.) Lancers.	Captain D. W. Godfree. Captain J. W. D. Evans.
1917.	Royal Artillery.	Lt.-Col. F. C. Smallwood. Captain H. F. Francis.
1920.	The Rifle Brigade.	Lt. D. S. Cairnes. Lt. J. G. Newton.
1921.	Rawalpindi District Staff.	Major C. D. Noyes, 2nd Rajputs. Colonel A. R. Winsloe, R.E.
1922.	Rawalpindi District Staff.	Colonel E. B. Peacock, I.A. Colonel A. R.Winsloe,R.E.

1923.	Military Works Services.	Capt. H. J. Tonks, M.W.S. Colonel A. R. Winsloe, R.E.
1924.	12th Cavalry, F. F.	Captain N. E. Marriott. Lt. E. St. J. Birnie.
1925.	60th Rifles.	Lt. C. J. Herbert-Stepney. Lt. O. N. D. Sismey.
1926.	The Rifle Brigade.	Lt. P. S. Curtis. Lt. J. G. Newton.
1927.	60th Rifles.	Lt. C. J. Herbert-Stepney. Lt. O. N. D. Sismey.
1928.	4th/7th Dragoon Guards.	Captain L. F. Marson. Lt. L. Williams.
1929.	The Rifle Brigade.	Major H. G. Moore-Gwyn. Lt. J. G. Newton.

Public School Pairs.

Wellington.

1905.	I. C. S. Royal Irish Fusiliers.	C. E. Bunbury. Lt. A. H. Muir.

Clifton.

1906.	R. E. R. E.	Major H. O. Lathbury. Lt. H. J. Elles.

RUGBY.

1907.	36th Sikhs The Queen's Regt.	Lt. W. E. Wilson-Johnston Lt. G. N. Dyer.

HAILEYBURY.

1908.	R. E. 5th Gurkhas.	Major S. H. Sheppard. Captain F. Skipwith.

CHELTENHAM.

1909.	R. F. A. 5th Gurkhas.	Lt. G. V. Stockwell. Lt. W. G. Harington.

HAILEYBURY.

1911.	R. E. 5th Gurkhas.	Major S. H. Sheppard. Captain F. Skipwith.

HAILEYBURY.

1912.	R. E. 5th Gurkhas.	Major S. H. Sheppard. Captain F. Skipwith.

HARROW.

1913.	Yorkshire Regt. The Rifle Brigade,	Captain H. V. Bastow. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett.

HARROW.

1915.	Yorkshire Regt. North Stafford Regt.	Captain H. V. Bastow. Lt. S. A. Tuck.

WELLINGTON.

1920.	R. F. A.	Lt. J. A. E. Hirst.
	R. F. A.	Lt. W. Deane-Freeman.

WELLINGTON.

1921.	R. F. A.	Lt. J. A. E. Hirst.
	R. F. A.	Lt. W. Deane-Freeman.

WELLINGTON.

1922.	5th Royal Gurkhas.	Major H. R. C. Lane.
	11th P.A.V.O. Cavalry.	Captain J. P. Dening.

RUGBY.

1923.	R. E.	Lt. A. Bennetts.
	Royal Scots Fusiliers.	Lt. C. G. Bailey.

WELLINGTON.

1924.	5th Probyn's Horse	Captain J. W. Davidson.
	12th Cavalry, F. F.	Captain N. E. Marriott.

ETON.

1925.	60th Rifles.	Lt. O. N. D. Sismey.
	The Rifle Brigade.	Lt. J. G. Newton.

ETON.

1926.	60th Rifles.	Lt. O. N. D. Sismey.
	The Rifle Brigade.	Lt. J. G. Newton.

ETON.

1927.	60th Rifles.	Lt. O. N. D. Sismey.
	The Rifle Brigade.	Lt. J. G. Newton.

ETON.

1928.	The Rifle Brigade	Lt. J. G. Newton.
	The Rifle Brigade	2nd Lt. the Viscount Garmoyle.

ETON.

1929.	The Rifle Brigade	Lt J. G. Newton.
	Late Royal Dragoons.	Brigadier H. A. Tomkinson.

4. NORTHERN CIRCARS TOURNAMENT.

DOUBLES.

1903.

I. C. S.

R. H. Campbell.
J. R. Huggins.

1904.

Indian Forest Service.

S. Cox.
H. F. A. Wood.

1905.

Indian Forest Service.

S. Cox.
H. F. A. Wood.

1906.

Indian Forest Service.

S. Cox.
H. F. A. Wood.

1907.

Coopers Hill.

A. T. Mackenzie.
M. F. C. Smith.

1908.

Coopers Hill.

M. F. C. Smith.
C. T. Mullings.

1909.

East Coast Volunteer Rifles.

Major P. B. Arbuthnot.
Lt. S. H. Slater.

1910.

I. C. S.

F. C. Parsons.
J. C. H. Fowler.

1911.

I. C. S.

F. C. Parsons.
J. C. H. Fowler.

1912.

Southern Provinces Mounted Rifles.

C. Hodding.
R. H. L. Lushington.

1913.

East Coast Volunteer Rifles. (2nd team.)

Captain C. L. H. Manby
2nd Lt. T. Caplen.

1914.

East Coast Volunteer Rifles.

Lt.-Col. P. B. Arbuthnot.
Captain W. G. Shout.

1915.

East Coast Volunteer Rifles.

Lt.-Col. P. B. Arbuthnot.
Lt. J. C. H. Fowler.

1916.

Indian Police.

A. J. Happell.
S. Sreeramulu.

1917.

Clifton.

S. Sreeramulu.
A. C. Rendell.

1918.

Tonbridge.

J. C. H. Fowler.
A. J. Happell.

1919.
J. S. Wilkes.
B. Sreeramulu.

1920.
B. Sreeramulu.
F. G. Butler.

1921.
B. Sreeramulu.
F. W. Lace.

1922.
B. Sreeramulu.
V. Hart.

1924.
J. R. Huggins.
G. R. Atwood.

1927.
W. F. McMillan.
V. Hart.

1928.
C. Hodding.
T. Caplen.

1929.
T. Caplen.
O. L. Burrell.

5. WESTERN INDIA CHAMPIONSHIP.

Singles.

1904. Captain A. H. C. Kearsey, York and Lancaster Regiment.

1905. Captain A. H. C. Kearsey, York and Lancaster Regiment.

1906. Lt. W. F. Maxwell, R. E.

1907. Lt. H. A. Tomkinson, 1st Royal Dragoons.

1908. Captain J. G. Greig, 121st Pioneers.

1909. Lt. A. J. H. Sloggett, The Rifle Brigade.

1911. Lt. A. J. H. Sloggett, The Rifle Brigade.

1912. Brigadier-General S. C. U. Smith.

1913. Lt. C. A. Eeles, R. F. A.

1920. Lt. J. B. Hyde-Smith, R. H. A.

1921. Captain C. P. Hancock, Political Department.

DOUBLES.

1904.	Major E. C. Cobbold. Capt. A. H. C. Kearsey	York & Lancaster Regt.
1905.	Major E. Crawley Lt. C. E. Reynard.	12th Lancers.
1906.	Colonel K. S. Dunsterville, R. A. F. C. Harrison, I. C. S.	Club of Western India.
1907.	Colonel K. S. Dunsterville, R. A. Captain W. F. Maxwell, R. E.	Poona Gymkhana.
1908.	Captain M. O. Clarke, Royal Fusiliers. Captain C. C. Dangar, 13th Hussars.	Club of Western India.
1909.	Captain J. G. Greig, 121st Pioneers. G. N. Foster, Poona Gymkhana.	
1911.	Captain A. A. Mercer, Dorsetshire Regiment. Captain A. J. H. Sloggett, The Rifle Brigade.	

1912.	Brigadier-General S. C. U. Smith. Lt. C. A. Eeles, R.F.A.	Club of Western India.
1920.	Major de Hoghton. Captain E. G. Bartlett.	King's Own Yorkshire, L. I.

PUBLIC SCHOOL PAIRS.

1904.	Captain The Hon. F. E. Guest, 1st Life Guards. Lt. A. B. Reynolds, 12th Lancers.	Winchester
1905.	Major E. Crawley, 12th Lancers. Lt. C. E. Reynard, 12th Lancers.	Harrow.
1906.	Lt. The Hon. J. D. Y. Bingham, 15th Hussars. Lt. C. E. Reynard, 12th Lancers.	Harrow.
1907.	Captain H. D. McNeile, 1st Royal Dragoons. Lt. H. A. Tomkinson, 1st Royal Dragoons.	Eton.
1908.	Captain The Hon. J. D. Y. Bingham, 15th Hussars. Captain M. O. Clarke, Royal Fusiliers.	Harrow.
1909.	G. N. Foster P. M. D. Sanderson.	Malvern.

1913.	Lt. C. A. Eeles, R.F.A. Lt. E. S. Gibbons, Middlesex Regiment.	Charterhouse.
1920.	Captain E. G. Bartlett, King's Own Yorkshire L. I. Lt. G. A. E. Gibbs, R. E.	Wellington.
1921.	Captain C. P. Hancock, Political Department. Lt. G. A. E. Gibbs, R. E.	Wellington.

6. CENTRAL INDIA CHAMPIONSHIP.

Singles.

1927. Colonel A. R. Winsloe.

1928. Captain A. J. Harris.

Doubles.

1927. Lt. J. L. Spencer and Captain A. J. Harris.

1928. Captain A. J. Harris and Captain R. Rayner.

Representative Pairs.

1927.	Captain A. J. Harris. Colonel A. R. Winsloe.	R. E.
1928.	Captain A. J. Harris Captain R. Rayner.	Royal Corps of Signals.

APPENDIX B.

1. Specification for ¼-inch Black Cement Plaster for Walls.

1. Scrape out joints for at least ½ inch, and see that there is a good "key," for this is most important. Water the whole surface well before laying plaster.

2. Lay on this surface plaster of the following proportions :—

One part lamp black.

Six parts cement.

The mixing is important, so a mixing machine is advisable.

3. To get a really true and smooth surface long straight wooden bats should be used, and this surface can be polished with polishing stones and water after 28 days. This costs a bit more, but gives a much more perfect effect than any trowel work at the time of laying, and the finished surface has no shine whatever.

4. The work must be kept as cold as possible when setting. The best method of doing this is to sew empty cement bags together and hang them on the surface. Keep this wet for at least 10 days—longer if possible. Pour water on them as required, and the evaporation will keep the work cold.

5. In open courts the best time for the work is during a break in the rains, on a cloudy day for preference, otherwise the plaster may set too quickly owing to the sun.

6. Where saltpetre exists in walls and floors the colour is affected at first, but the effect wears off in time. The addition of sand reduces this, but the amount to be used must be determined locally. In some places "Pudlo" has been successfully used to prevent such efflorescence, and prevent the plaster cracking, but its use must be subject to local experiment too.

Note 1.—Lamp blacks vary considerably in specific gravity and colour, so actual experiment must determine the proportion suitable.

Note 2.—Coloured lime plaster can also be laid on with good results, and this cheap substitute is useful in the upper parts of walls not subject to hard play.

Note 3.—Keep air from accumulating under plaster by striking with the trowel.

2. SPECIFICATION FOR BLACK CEMENT FLOOR.

(*a*) *Renewal of an Existing Surface.*

1. Take up old surface and see that there is a good "key," for this is most important. Water the whole surface well before laying plaster.

2. Lay on this ½ inch plaster of the following proportions :—

Two parts lamp black.
Six parts clean sharp sand.
Six parts cement.

The mixing is important, so a mixing machine is advisable. The amount of lamp black must be determined by experiment.

3. The plaster should be laid in squares not exceeding 10 feet and these should be laid alternately allowing 3 days before a new square is laid alongside. To allow for expansion leave ¼ inch clear along the edges of the walls, and do this by inserting cardboard which should be removed after 24 hours. Any space left after setting can be easily filled up. During the first few hours of setting it is advisable to screen the work from the sun.

4. To get a really true and smooth surface long straight edges, combined with trowel work, should be used. Polishing can be done after 28 days as in the case of plaster on walls, and this gives a surface which is true without being slippery, as would be the case if no sand were used. It is not wise to do too much polishing at first, for this is best left to be done by the the feet of the players.

5. Keep the work as cold as possible by covering the surface with clean grass or straw kept wet with water for at least 10 days—longer if possible.

Red Lines.

1. Spaces for the lines should be made by wooden strips of correct size nailed in position, and after this black plaster is laid on each side and allowed to set for a week before the red lines are put in. The strips should be sloped inwards at the lower edges and roughened to give a good " key."

2. After a week remove the strips and grout in a mixture of neat cement on which will be laid a plaster of the following composition—

1 part red iron dioxide,

1 part cement.

3. Keep wet as in the case of the rest of the floor for at least 10 days—longer if possible.

Note 1.—Red stains on a black floor are extremely difficult to remove so it is advisable, when laying the lines, to use wooden protective frames with wetted paper under them, and to protect the surface beyond by old cement bags or similar material. This will prevent splashing and much subsequent trouble.

Note 2.—Whatever care may be taken it is practically impossible to get a really uniform black surface in the case of a floor or wall. Light shades are bound to occur. The same difficulty occurs at Home, as an inspection of well known courts in London will show. Efflorescence occurs too.

Note 3.—Keep air from accumulating under plaster by striking with the trowel.

(*b*) *Another method of putting a Black Surface on a new Floor.*

Lay an ordinary cement concrete floor (3 or 4 inches thick as may be necessary), and when the time for polishing comes scatter on the surface a mixture composed of—

1 lb. lamp black,

1 lb. Portland cement.

Lay on dry in the proportion of 10 lbs. of the mixture to 100 sq. feet of surface. The surface must be worked up a little and must be quite green. It must

be beaten a little as a commencement to polishing. Then polish.

3. Removal of Efflorescence from Cement Surfaces.

Make a solution of equal quantities of Sulphate of Zinc and water by weight, and give the cement work two coats.

As has already been pointed out the addition of some sand will much reduce the amount of efflorescence.

4. Specifications for Black Paint on Walls, and for removing Old Paint.

A.

Lamp black ..	..	10 chittacks.
White lead ..	..	6 ,,
Linseed oil ..	..	12 ,,
Turpentine ..	..	1¼ ,,

This will lie dead without shine on most walls, and will not come off on racket balls or clothes.

B. Another good specification—

Calcarium slate coloured powder	.. 28 lbs.
Ivory black	.. 6 ,,
Double boiled linseed oil ..	.. 1 gal.
Turpentine	.. ½ ,,

This covers an area of 800 sq. feet. If the surface is plastered, one coat of raw linseed oil should be applied before laying the paint. On stone walls this is not necessary. Experiments must be made locally to see which of these specifications is the most suitable. The second one has given good results at Mysore.

(c) *Removal of Old Paint.*

Where the surface is uneven this must always be done before new paint is applied to floors and walls. The following specification produces a perfectly clean smooth surface.

Mix the following ingredient in the following proportions :—

2 lbs. caustic soda,

2 lbs. " Sajji " (an impure carbonate of soda),

2 lbs. of unslaked lime.

in 4 gallons of boiling water.

After mixing apply at once to the surface concerned, and allow it to remain until the paint has loosened. A blunt iron scraper will remove the obstinate patches, whilst a brush will do the rest. When all paint is loose wash down the surface with water.

All the ingredients are obtainable in an ordinary bazar. The caustic soda is the most potent of the three and the most expensive. Care must be taken to protect the hands while using the mixture, particularly when it is hot.

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5. SPECIFICATION FOR REINFORCED CONCRETE DOOR FOR A RACKET COURT.

Frame.

The frame of the door is made of 3-inch by 3-inch by ¼-inch tee iron, so that the edges of the concrete may not be chipped off when opening and closing the door. On to this frame the ¾-inch round iron reinforcement

is rivetted as shown in the drawing. A trap door is provided in the centre of the door, and about one-third of the distance from the top. This gives access to a box which is fixed at the back to hold the balls, and has in it a bolt by which the door can be shut or opened from inside.

Concrete.

Brick ballast, broken to ½-inch gauge, is a suitable aggregate, and the matrix consists of 1 part cement to 2 parts of aggregate.

Colour.

To give a dull black surface to the interior of the door the colouring matter is thoroughly mixed with the dry cement and ¼-inch plaster of the following proportions is then laid on :—

1 part lamp black,
6 parts cement.

Setting.

The door must be kept under water for a month to prevent the concrete from drying too quickly, thus obviating any scaling or cracking which will occur if the interior of the concrete does not dry uniformly with the exterior.

Note.—Lamp blacks vary considerably in specific gravity and colour, so actual experiment must determine the proportions suitable.

APPENDIX C.

DESCRIPTION OF INDIAN PATENT STONE.

This well known artificial stone is the outcome of experiments which have succeeded in cementing together particles of blast furnace slag to form a homogeneous mass. It stands the extreme and varying climatic conditions of India well, and improves with age. It is therefore particularly suitable for racket court floors and walls. The specification is a secret, and the work is carried out entirely by the Indian Patent Stone Company (Managing Agents, Messrs. Bird & Co., Calcutta), who require a full month before any play is possible. Three months after the polishing is done, and this produces a very smooth and fast surface as seen in good courts at Home. And the surface of the floor is not slippery. Any grade of colour will be given, but a dull black is the best for seeing a fast ball. The floor is laid in squares of not more than 10 feet, and the corners have small "key" squares to prevent any tendency to rise. The joints are so fine that they do not affect play at all. The stone is laid 1 inch thick on floors, and from ½ inch to ¾ inch thick on walls. It lies best on brick walls owing to the frequency of the joints, but it can be laid on stone walls too, provided the joints are a foot or two apart and the surface can be made rough with chiselling. A polished surface can be produced without any shine whatever, and this is specially important in a court that is lighted with electric light. The excellent quality of this material can be tested by anyone playing in the courts of the Calcutta Racket Club or at Mysore.

APPENDIX D.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING OF RACKET COURTS.

Queen's Club Court.

This useful adjunct to a covered court has attracted much attention at Home recently, and the first standard court to be illuminated in England was at Queen's Club in London. The arrangement of lamps here is shown on the plan in the pocket at the end of the book. The court is lit up by 3 lines of light and 4 flood lights. The light for the front part of the court consists of 15-200 Watt lamps fitted in a wire cage and shining vertically downwards. This is supplemented by 2-300 Watt flood lights, in advance of and at the sides of the above, shining downwards at an angle of 60° from a height of 30 feet from the floor. For the rest of the court there are 2 lines of light, each consisting of 16-150 Watt lamps fitted in a long trough and supplemented in the corners close to the back wall by 2-300 Watt flood lights shining vertically downwards at a height of 22 feet from the floor. These lights have frosted reflectors whereas those in the front of the court have clear reflectors. The whole court is thus satisfactorily lit up with lamps consuming 9,000 Watts per hour, or 9 B.T. units at a voltage of 220. The whole installation is modelled on that used at the Chicago racket courts in America where the Watt consumption is 11,100. This was found too powerful for the Queen's Club court where the wall and floor are of a light black colour, and the number of lamps in the 2 back rows was reduced from 23 to 16 in each row. After some experiment this was found to be ample,

and the light which was installed in 1926 has proved satisfactory for fast tournament play. It also blends admirably with any remaining daylight from the sky-light, and this is invaluable in London with its changing light in the winter and spring months. Although the floor is shiny it is quite easy to see a fast ball owing to the careful distribution of the lamps. This is what really matters. Gone are the days when a match could be seriously delayed by failing light, and a tournament is now a test of endurance as well as of skill. This is as it should be. Each light trough is roped through pulleys, and each line of lights can be lowered or raised by men at the back of the gallery. The replacement or cleaning of lamps is thus easily effected. The cost of the lighting comes to about 3 shillings per hour.

Eton College Courts.

The example of Queen's Club has already been followed by the Public Schools, and light is now installed at Eton and Harrow. At Eton the first court was lit up on Queen's Club lines, and light was installed later in the second court where various alterations in the method of reflection were carried out. In this court the front part is lit up by 6-300 Watt lamps without any flood lights, and additional effect has been given by tilting the lamps at each end into the corners. The rest of the court is lit up with 2 lines of light each consisting of 14-200 Watt lamps supplemented by 2-300 Watt flood lights in the corners at the back. The square reflectors for the flood lights have proved more effective than the round ones.

The lines of troughs containing the lights are in

pairs, and this lightening of the load enables a trough to be worked by one man. The total Watt consumption works out to 8,000 at a voltage of 110, and the light produced is very satisfactory. This light is less than that at Queen's Club, but the Court there is faster. Both the Eton courts are of standard size. They have black walls and dark red floors. In both cases the spacing of the lights is identical with that at Queen's Club. The cost came to about £120 per court.

Utility of such lighting in India.

An installation on the lines described above would be an inestimable boon at the Calcutta and Bombay racket courts where the business man cannot always make sure of being free to play during the hours when these covered courts are alone usable. In cloudy monsoon weather, too, such light would be particularly valuable for it would blend well with any remaining daylight. It is difficult to say, without actual trial, which system would be most suitable. The Queen's Club stystem—or a mean between this and the Chicago system—would probably suit the Bombay court, whilst the system in the second Eton court ought to answer well in Calcutta. Careful experiments would have to be made as at Home, and in working these out considerations of climate, colour and pace will all come in. Experience to date has proved this. There is no denying the fact that the lighting of these courts would give a new lease of life to the game in both places for it would not only enable more men to play, but to play at a time when the temperature would be at its lowest. The cost, too,

of such installations would be less than at Home. To admit of easy raising and lowering of the light troughs these should be arranged in pairs as in the Eton courts. The saving of time and labour thus ensured is important.

APPENDIX E.

STRINGING AND REPAIR OF RACKET BATS.

In England the stringing of racket bats is a fine art. A short account of the method will be instructive to the uninitiated. When this work, or the replacement of a string, is carried out the bat is invariably put in a vice and held just below the head. When stringing the bat the mains are first put in, *i.e.*, the strings running vertically, and the cross strings are then interlaced with the mains starting from the top. Care has to be taken in the first instance to see that the main strings are all pulled up to the same tension. Equal care must be taken to see that the cross strings are also pulled up to an even tension to keep the bat in shape. It is considered quite impossible to do either work by hand.

As a good English bat costs nearly half as much again in India than at Home players will go to more expense to extend its life. Some Indian markers, Jamsetji for one, do excellent work, but there are others who do not. The chief reason for this is that inferior gut is used in their work. As already pointed out, only actual play will show whether gut is good or bad, for a close inspection tells you nothing definite. It pays, therefore, to get the very best gut from Home and issue it to the marker where unsatisfactory results have been found. Most Indian markers do their work entirely by hand, and a loosely repaired string is a common fault. The necessary tension is produced by holding the bat under

the knees and pulling the loose end of the gut wound round a handkerchief. Except in expert hands this leads to a loss of tension.

The old saying "Prevention is better than cure" applies with particular force to a racket bat. Binding it at the head and sides greatly strengthen the wooden frame which generally gives way before the gut does. Such binding is often seen in India, and is not unknown at Home. If carefully done it can be applied in as many as six places without seriously affecting the balance of the bat. Bats not so bound go much more quickly in India. Some markers repair the break successfully with open gut binding and then string in between. This keeps the shape fairly well. Other markers bind the whole of the damaged portion with string or gut, and then re-string. The last method is a bad one for it spoils the balance of the bat and seldom lasts long. Unless the break is a small one the work is not worth doing at all.

After a few strings have been repaired the bat loses its general tightness. A couple of strings up or across will remedy this, but it makes a bat uncertain as regards direction when hitting. To enable a marker to do complete stringing, or indeed any repair work, quickly and well, it will be necessary to provide him with a vice and bench. But some markers do surprisingly good work without these aids.

Generally speaking, less repair is required in the case of bats which have had the frames and gut treated with oil, as already described. In the hot weather and

rains it certainly pays to get well oiled frames out from Home and to string them on arrival. During the rains this helps to make the gut last longer for a tightly strung bat just out from Home sometimes gets unduly tightened, and breaks unless protected from the damp air.

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